

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Members Jones and Leslie

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Baca, Bass, Berg, Bermudez, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Coto, De La Torre, Dymally, Evans, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Houston, Huff, Karnette, Klehs, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Lieber, Liu, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Ridley-Thomas, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Torrico, Umberg, Vargas, and Yee)

(Coauthors: Senators Ducheny, Kehoe, and Maldonado)

March 31, 2005

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to passenger rail service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 18, as amended, Jones. Amtrak.

This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide adequate operating and capital funding for Amtrak at specified levels, to preserve and improve the 4 national network Amtrak trains currently serving California, and to establish a multiyear capital funding program available to the states on a matching basis to initiate, improve, or expand passenger rail services

and provide an adequate level of capital funding for Amtrak to sustain the mandated rail passenger services.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The voters of the State of California have
2 adopted certain bond measures to implement passenger rail
3 service across the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Those passenger rail systems have now largely
5 been constructed and services are operating, as defined in the
6 voter-approved ballot measures; and

7 WHEREAS, Key elements of California's transportation
8 system are the three intercity passenger rail corridor services (the
9 Pacific Surfliner, the Capitol Corridor, and the San Joaquin
10 routes); and

11 WHEREAS, These three intercity passenger rail corridor
12 services now transport some 4.5 million passengers annually
13 within California, in large part due to the successful partnership
14 with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak); and

15 WHEREAS, The partnership with Amtrak brings certain
16 significant operating, financial, and liability benefits to the State
17 of California; and

18 WHEREAS, The federal budget recently proposed by the
19 President includes "zero funding" for the continuation of Amtrak
20 and its services; and

21 WHEREAS, Amtrak has undergone a major reform of its
22 business during the last two and one-half years, resulting in
23 substantial progress in renewing its assets and stabilizing its
24 costs; and

25 WHEREAS, Amtrak is the only entity in the nation with a
26 statutory right-of-access to the private freight railroads for the
27 purpose of providing passenger rail services; and

28 WHEREAS, Amtrak-operated intercity and commuter
29 passenger services within California in 2004 transported 9.3
30 million passengers, making California second only to the State of
31 New York in the number of passengers transported on Amtrak
32 operated trains; and

33 WHEREAS, The State of California's capital investments to
34 date for intercity passenger rail services, based upon the voter
35 approved bonds, are approximately \$1.7 billion, with most of

1 these funds providing new rolling stock and track capacity
2 improvements in the private freight railroads; and

3 WHEREAS, The current freight rail network is failing to keep
4 pace with goods movement demand in the ports throughout the
5 state and any improvements in the passenger rail network benefit
6 freight rail mobility; and

7 WHEREAS, It is the desire of the State of California to protect
8 these public investments for their intended purpose as expressed
9 by the voters who approved the bond measures that provided the
10 initial funding for these investments; and

11 WHEREAS, It is the expressed will of the Legislature to
12 continue to provide, improve, and expand California's intercity
13 passenger rail program; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
15 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
16 memorializes the Congress of the United States to do all of the
17 following:

18 (a) To provide adequate operating and capital funding for
19 Amtrak in the federal fiscal year 2006 budget to allow
20 uninterrupted continuation of California's Amtrak operated
21 services at the levels proposed to Congress in the federal budget
22 proposal for federal fiscal year 2005, which specified that an
23 annual request would be made of Congress for ~~\$1.4~~ \$1.82 billion
24 annually for Amtrak.

25 (b) To preserve and improve the four national network Amtrak
26 trains currently serving California (California Zephyr, Coast
27 Starlight, Southwest Chief, and Sunset Limited) as these trains
28 stretch across the United States, uniting California and our
29 state-supported trains with the rest of the nation.

30 (c) To establish a multiyear capital funding program available
31 to the states on a matching basis to initiate, improve, or expand
32 passenger rail services and to provide an adequate level of capital
33 funding for Amtrak to sustain the mandated rail passenger
34 services; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
36 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of
37 the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of
38 Representatives, to the Majority Leader in the United States
39 Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the
40 Congress of the United States, to the Chairperson of each

- 1 congressional committee that has jurisdiction over Amtrak and
- 2 the national passenger rail system, to the United States
- 3 Transportation Secretary, to the Governor, and to the author for
- 4 appropriate distribution.

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